

REMARKS

The office action of January 23, 2009, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 4, 6 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the patent to Polony in view of EP 1038601 to Kvaerner.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Polony in view of Kvaerner, and further in view of the patent to Niebling et al.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has amended claims 1 and 11.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims to address the instances of indefiniteness pointed out by the Examiner. The Examiner is correct in the interpretation of

claims 4 and 6. As written, in claim 4 one or more of the elements listed consist of different material than the other elements. In claim 6, one or more of the listed elements has reinforcements.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of claims 4, 5 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph are overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references and particularly to the patent to Poloni, it can be seen that this patent discloses a labyrinth seal with a pressurized sealing packing. The Kvaerner reference discloses a sealing assembly. The Examiner combined these references in determining that claims 1-9 and 11 would be unpatentable over such a combination. Applicant disagrees. In Poloni the sealing lips 21 rest against a race that is part of the sealing assembly that is attached to the roll 12. In the presently claimed invention, on the other hand, the race 5 is attached to a sleeve 3 fitted on the roll neck 2, and the radial lips 13, 13' of the mounting 11 interact with the race 5. Kvaerner is cited as

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showing these features. Applicant submits that the features are not taught by Kvaerner. The Examiner states that Kvaerner teaches a sleeve 5 to which a race 10 is assigned, and that radial lips 22a, 22b of the mounting 17 interact with the race 10. This is not correct. The radial lips 22a, 22b do not interact with the element 10, but instead interact with the running sleeve 7 that is part of a carrier ring 6 that is mounted on the roll neck 4. There is no interaction between the lips 22a, 22b and the race 10. Thus, the combination of references does not teach a sealing device having a race fixed to a sleeve, and a mounting having radial lips that interact with the race. Also, the Examiner supposedly designates the L-shaped section of Poloni with "II". Unfortunately, the arrow associated with "II" in the drawing reproduced in the office action points to an open space, not to any physical element that applicant can discern. Therefore, unless the Examiner can more clearly indicate which element is referred to, applicant must argue that Poloni does not teach an L-shaped section.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

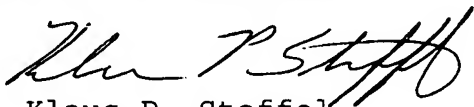
The patent to Niebling et al. discloses an antifriction bearing fastening arrangement. Applicant submits that this reference adds nothing to the teachings of the previously discussed references so as to teach the presently claimed invention. Therefore, is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

By

  
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Dated: April 23, 2009



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 23, 2009.

By:   
Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: April 23, 2009